

## Message Text

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17

ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OES-03 SAJ-01 NRC-05 /092 R

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EUR/NE:SWORREL

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R 060028Z JUN 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

S E C R E T STATE 132180

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, AS, NZ, XP

SUBJECT: SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR FREE ZONE (SPNFZ)

REF: A. WELLINGTON 1512; B. STATE 118768

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

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1. REF A NOTES THAT GONZ INTENDS TO RAISE SUBJECT OF SPNFZ

AT JULY 1-3 MEETING OF SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM. DEPARTMENT BELIEVES WE SHOULD MAKE OUR VIEWS ON THIS SUBJECT KNOWN TO GOVERNMENTS OF SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM MEMBERS OTHER THAN NEW ZEALAND BEFORE MEETING TAKES PLACE. WHILE WE EXPECT THAT NEW ZEALAND WILL FIND GENERAL SUPPORT AMONG SOUTH PACIFIC STATES FOR SPNFZ CONCEPT, WE WISH TO AVOID SITUATION IN WHICH SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM ENDORSES ANY NFZ PROPOSAL CONTAINING ELEMENTS UNACCEPTABLE TO US.

2. REF B (POUCHED TO SUVA MAY 21) CONTAINS GENERAL GUIDANCE ON US APPROACH TO SPNFZ AND SPECIFIC COMMENTS ON GONZ PROPOSAL AS OUTLINED IN EARLY APRIL.

3. DETAILS OF NEW ZEALAND PROPOSAL SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE DISCUSSED WITH GOVERNMENTS OTHER THAN GONZ, SINCE THAT IS PRESENTLY BILATERAL MATTER BETWEEN USG AND GONZ, AND SINCE FORUM TREATMENT OF SUBJECT WILL PROBABLY BE OF GENERAL NATURE. (WE NOTE THE SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT POSITION WITH RESPECT TO GOA: SEE PARA 6, REF B.) WE WISH TO AVOID GIVING SOUTH PACIFIC ISLAND STATES INCORRECT IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE AGAINST NUCLEAR FREE ZONES PER SE. HOWEVER, WE WISH TO EMPHASIZE THAT OUR ATTITUDE IS FAVORABLE ONLY IF A PARTICULAR NFZ PROPOSAL MEETS CERTAIN CRITERIA:

(A) THE INITIATIVE SHOULD BE TAKEN BY THE STATES IN THE REGION CONCERNED;

(B) THE NFZ SHOULD INCLUDE ALL STATES IN THE AREA WHOSE PARTICIPATION IS DEEMED IMPORTANT;

(C) THE CREATION OF THE ZONE SHOULD NOT DISTURB NECESSARY SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS;

(D) PROVISION IS MADE FOR ADEQUATE VERIFICATION.

4. CRITERION C IS HIGHLY RELEVANT IN CASE OF SPNFZ. SOUTH PACIFIC IS AN AREA WHERE WE HAVE TERRITORY (AMERICAN SAMOA), WHERE WE HAVE ALLIES TO WHOM WE ARE COMMITTED BY TREATY (ANZUS), AND WHERE OUR NAVAL VESSELS, MERCHANT MARINE, AND AIRCRAFT HAVE LONG BEEN PRESENT. USSR AND PRC HAVE NO COM-  
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PARABLE RELATIONSHIP TO SOUTH PACIFIC. IF SPNFZ WERE TO RESTRICT US NAVAL/AIR PASSAGE OR PORT CALLS/USE OF FACILITIES IN THE AREA, IT COULD IMPACT MORE HEAVILY ON US STRATEGIC CONSIDERATIONS THAN ON THOSE OF POTENTIAL HOSTILE NUCLEAR POWERS. MOREOVER, IN WAKE OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA, MOVE TO ESTABLISH SPNFZ COULD BE INTERPRETED AS AN EFFORT TO FORCE US NAVAL/MILITARY WITHDRAWAL FROM AN AREA IN WHICH WE HAVE LONG BEEN INVOLVED,

PARTICULARLY IF THERE WERE IMPLICATIONS THAT SPNFZ WOULD APPLY IN ANY WAY TO HIGH SEAS OR AIRSPACE. THE US COULD NOT AGREE TO ANY PROPOSAL THAT RESTRICTED RIGHT TO TRANSIT HIGH SEAS, NOR COULD IT ACCEPT ATTEMPTS BY OTHER STATES TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL REGIME OVER A PORTION OF THE HIGH SEAS.

5. AS MOST GOVERNMENTS ARE AWARE, WE CONSIDER IT AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF OUR SECURITY POLICY NEITHER TO CONFIRM NOR TO DENY PRESENCE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS ON US WARSHIPS OR MILITARY AIRCRAFT, SINCE CUMULATIVE DENIALS WOULD OVER PERIOD OF TIME IDENTIFY NUCLEAR WEAPONS-BEARING CRAFT. SPNFZ WHICH EXCLUDED SHIPS OR PLANES CARRYING NUCLEAR WEAPONS WOULD THUS, IN EFFECT, EXCLUDE ALL US NAVAL VESSELS AND MANY US MILITARY AIRCRAFT. BRITISH TAKE SIMILAR POSITION TO US ON THIS ISSUE, SO ULTIMATE EFFECT OF CREATING SUCH A ZONE COULD WELL BE TO INHIBIT THOSE TWO FRIENDLY POWERS IN MAINTAINING THEIR LONG ESTABLISHED PRESENCE IN THE AREA. WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT QUESTIONS OF TRANSIT OR TRANSPORT

PRIVILEGES, INCLUDING PORT CALLS AND USE OF AIRPORTS, SHOULD BE REGARDED AS BILATERAL ISSUES (AS THEY ARE BY PARTIES TO EXISTING LATIN AMERICAN NUCLEAR FREE ZONE TREATY) NOT TO BE INCLUDED IN ANY NUCLEAR FREE ZONE TREATY ARRANGEMENT.

6. WE HAVE EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO PROSCRIPTION OF INDIGNEOUS PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS (PNES) IN ANY NUCLEAR FREE ZONE ARRANGEMENT. WE WOULD BE CONCERNED IF SPECIFIC SPNFZ PROPOSAL DID NOT DEAL WITH THIS ISSUE.

7. FOR SUVA AND PORT MORESBY. YOU SHOULD TAKE NEXT CONVENIENT OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE LOW-KEY APPROACH TO SENIOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIALS OF GOF AND GPNG TO EXPLAIN OUR POSITION ON NUCLEAR FREE ZONES AND ON POSSIBLE SPNFZ PRO-SECRET

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POSAL, DRAWING ON PARAS 3, 4, 5, AND 6 ABOVE.

8. FOR SUVA. IF OPPORTUNITY SHOULD ARISE BEFORE JULY MEETING OF SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM, YOU MAY IN YOUR DISCRETION DISCUSS LOW KEY OUR POSITION WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF TONGA.

9. FOR WELLINGTON: IF APPROPRIATE OCCASION ARISES BEFORE JULY FORUM MEETING, YOU MAY DISCUSS LOW KEY OUR POSITION WITH OFFICIALS OF WESTERN SAMOA. IF YOU SEE NO OBJECTION, YOU MAY INFORM GNZ THAT WE ARE COMMUNICATING US VIEWS ON SPNFZ (BUT NOT RPT NOT ON SPECIFIC GNZ PROPOSALS) TO OTHER GOVERNMENTS WHICH WILL BE REPRESENTED AT FORUM.

10. FOR CANBERRA. IF YOU SEE NO OBJECTION, PLEASE REVIEW

OUR POSITION WITH GOA OFFICIALS PRIOR TO JULY MEETING.

11. FOR ALL ADDRESSEES. PLEASE REPORT ANY SIGNIFICANT  
DISCUSSIONS YOU HAVE WITH HOST GOVERNMENT ON SUBJECT OF  
SPNFZ AS WELL AS ANY INFORMATION WHICH COMES TO YOUR ATTEN-  
TION CONCERNING DISCUSSIONS OF SPNFZ HELD AT FORUM. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

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